

HOUSE BILL No. 1643

DIGEST OF INTRODUCED BILL

Citations Affected: IC 20-10.1-4-16.

Synopsis: Elective study of the Bible in public high schools. Requires school corporations beginning in the 2001-2002 school year to offer a total of two credits of elective high school instruction in: (1) the history of the Bible; and (2) the influence of the Bible in history and literature. Provides that the instruction may not be devotional or promote religious beliefs or practices, and a student may not be required or influenced to elect to participate in the instruction. Requires the department of education to make available to school corporations a list of appropriate available instructional material for this instruction, develop curriculum guides to assist teachers, and provide other assistance to school corporations.

Effective: July 1, 1999.

Burton

January 21, 1999, read first time and referred to Committee on Education.



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First Regular Session 111th General Assembly (1999)

PRINTING CODE. Amendments: Whenever an existing statute (or a section of the Indiana Constitution) is being amended, the text of the existing provision will appear in this style type, additions will appear in **this style type**, and deletions will appear in ~~this style type~~.

Additions: Whenever a new statutory provision is being enacted (or a new constitutional provision adopted), the text of the new provision will appear in **this style type**. Also, the word **NEW** will appear in that style type in the introductory clause of each SECTION that adds a new provision to the Indiana Code or the Indiana Constitution.

Conflict reconciliation: Text in a statute in *this style type* or ~~this style type~~ reconciles conflicts between statutes enacted by the 1998 General Assembly.

HOUSE BILL No. 1643

A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning education.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:

1 SECTION 1. IC 20-10.1-4-16 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA
2 CODE AS A **NEW** SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS
3 [EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 1999]: **Sec. 16. (a) Notwithstanding**
4 **IC 20-10.1-1-0.5, this section applies only to public schools (as**
5 **defined in IC 20-10.1-1-2).**

6 **(b) Beginning in the 2001-2002 school year, the governing body**
7 **of each school corporation shall offer a total of two (2) credits of**
8 **elective high school instruction in the following subjects:**

9 **(1) The history of the Bible.**

10 **(2) The influence of the Bible in:**

11 **(A) history; and**

12 **(B) literature.**

13 **(c) The following apply to the instruction described in**
14 **subsection (b):**

15 **(1) The instruction may not:**

16 **(A) be devotional; or**

17 **(B) promote religious beliefs or practices.**



- 1 (2) A student may not be required or influenced to elect to
2 participate.
3 (d) The department shall do the following for the instruction
4 described in subsection (b):
5 (1) Make available to school corporations a list of appropriate
6 available instructional material.
7 (2) Develop curriculum guides to assist teachers.
8 (3) Provide assistance to school corporations to prepare
9 school corporations to offer the instruction. This assistance
10 must include professional development for teachers.

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